70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Seniors Advisory Committee

Monday, February 22, 2021 | **10:00 AM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on April 20, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, D. Dellio at 10:01 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 10 - Chairman D. Dellio
Councillor A. Kungl
C. Green
G. Kavanagh
H. Stone
J. Annable
L. Ricardo
P. Sasco
P. Thiffault
S. Turcott

Absent: 2 - Councillor N. Harris
M. Malcolm

STAFF:
Accessibility and Diversity Specialist, C. Dillon
Committee Support Clerk, T. McArthur
Recreation Programmer, J. Gourlie.

The Seniors Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SENIORS HOUSING

Donna Dellio, Chair provided an overview on opportunities for co-housing with seniors and ways to encourage the City to promote seniors' complexes to developers looking to build in Barrie.

Gwen Kavanagh advised that she met in January, 2021 with John Brassard, MP (Barrie-Innisfil), Doug Shipley, MP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte), Andrea Khanjin, MPP (Barrie-Innisfil), and Doug Downey, MPP (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte) to discuss the concept of co-housing for seniors, co-housing insurance rates and the backing of mortgages for affordability of co-housing. Ms. Kavanagh agreed to update the Committee once more information comes available on the status of co-housing from the provincial and federal levels of government.

Ms. Kavanagh explained the concept of co-housing to the Committee that included the concept being a new build or a rebuild with four, five or six occupants. She advised that each occupant has their own sitting room, bathroom, and bedroom and all other areas are common such as the laundry and kitchen and would share the expenses. Ms. Kavanagh discussed the benefits of co-housing with seniors such as less worry, equal costs, security, social interactions, reduces home isolation, and less need for long term care homes.

The Committee discussed the seniors housing needs in the City, co-housing options, and co-housing ownership and rental options. They suggested inviting the appropriate City staff to a future meeting for their expertise surrounding co-housing, incentivizing access to housing, and more affordable ways to retaining housing for seniors.

The Committee discussed the status of the new Official Plan (OP) and whether seniors housing was incorporated into the draft document. They noted that a second draft of the new OP is being anticipated for release in the spring, 2021. The Committee agreed to review the second draft of the OP and submit their comments during the public consultation process.

2021 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee discussed the following items to undertake for 2021 that they felt would benefit seniors in the City:

- Feedback on the second draft of the new Official Plan associated to policies and by-laws to support incentivizing housing for seniors;
- Community engagement and promoting awareness of the Committee:
    - Seniors Month;
    - Connecting Seniors ie. Seniors Without Walls Program and virtual studios;
    - Library;
    - Town Hall meetings;
    - Community stakeholders; and
    - City's social media ie. Twitter, Facebook, City page "This week in Barrie".
- Age-Friendly Community Plan;
- Transportation - transit services for seniors; and
- Seniors Health.

Gwen Kavanagh suggested the idea of City staff investigate the possibility of using a central parking lot where residents could drive to a neutral location, park their cars, and then catch a bus to Royal Victoria Health Centre due to the prohibitive parking and costs to park at the Health Centre. The Committee discussed Ms. Kavanagh's suggestion and agreed to invite staff from the Transit and Parking Strategic to a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

CHAIRMAN